

Angels for Toys: Children's Toy Drive

*Hosted by: Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad Angels for Children
Benefiting residents of Montgomery County Housing Partnership properties*

Project Goal

To provide toys for children in a specific area to enhance their Christmas.

Project Components

Components include financing the project, collecting toys and donations, wrapping and delivery.

Timeline for Planning

- **August:** Start planning where you will have the event and who you will get involved.
- **September:** Push to get people to start collecting.
- **October:** Confirm collection sites at various businesses.
- **November:** Put boxes out.
- **December:** Collect, wrap, and deliver!

How Many Volunteers?

Over 100 volunteers from start to finish. Some are firefighters but most are people in the community. Some are students. Usually 40 to 50 people do wrapping, 20 people who do base setup, and 30-35 people do delivery.

Time Commitment

Anywhere from 2 hours for people who wrap presents to 20 hours for people who pick up toys and collect them and bring them to central location. About 12-15 people work 20-40 hours on this project.

Expenses

Collection boxes, wrapping supplies, delivery trucks, plaques for businesses that have participated.

Publicity

Publicity is key for increasing donations of toys. Publicity has been done in Gazette, a Montgomery County cable show on Comcast, and on Volunteer Montgomery.

Challenges

Getting the message out, specifically that our project is worthwhile and is different from other toy collection drives, giving proper recognition to businesses that take in it, and getting specific tasks for volunteers and getting volunteers to do them.

Results

About 1800 toys delivered to about 600 kids. Each kid gets large toy, medium-sized toy, and educational toy, which gives people the opportunity to feel that they are part of the holiday spirit.

Tips/Key Steps:

- Make sure that your plan is written out, including a timeline.
- Give volunteers a specific age group to purchase toys for.
- Don't forget about teenagers.
- Keep people motivated with personal stories, if applicable.



Points of Interest

- > This project takes an immense amount of time and planning, but is very rewarding!
- > Target a specific group to donate to.

